

REMARKS

Claim Cancellations

Claims 26-28 have been canceled without prejudice.

Applicants are not conceding in this application that the canceled claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim cancellations are intended only to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to present and prosecute these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Nonstatutory Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 26-28 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 19 and 21 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/892,847. 06/19/2007 Office Action, page 2, first paragraph.

Claim 3 stands provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/892,847 in view of claim 19 of the same application. 06/19/2007 Office Action, page 2, second paragraph.

The present cancellation of claims 26-28 renders their rejection moot. Applicants are submitting herewith a terminal disclaimer to overcome the rejection of claim 3.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,777,200 to Dymond et al. ("Dymond"). 06/19/2007 Office Action, page 3, third paragraph. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection to the extent it may be applicable to the claims as amended.

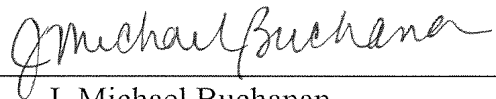
The present cancellation of claims 26-28 renders the rejection moot.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Assignee.

Respectfully submitted,

CANTOR COLBURN LLP
Applicants' Attorneys

By: 

J. Michael Buchanan
Registration No. 44,571

Date: September 5, 2007
Customer No.: 23413
Telephone: (860) 286-2929